

**Jacobus J. Van Aartsen\* e Cesare Bogi\*\***

**SOME REMARKS ABOUT THE IDENTIFICATION OF *FOSSARUS MONTEROSATI* GRILLO, 1877.\*\*\***

**Riassunto**

Si dimostra che *Fossarus monterosati* GRANATA-GRILLO, 1877 non può essere identificato, ed è pertanto da considerare nomen nudum. Le due specie citate da WARÉN & BOUCHET devono di conseguenza essere denominate *Tjaernoeia exquisitus* (JEFFREYS, 1883), erroneamente identificato con *Fossarus monterosati* GRANATA GRILLO, 1877 e *Granigyra monterosatoi* (Van AARTSEN & BOGI, 1987), che può essere considerato corrispondente a *Fossarus excavatus* MONTEROSATO nomen nudum.

**Summary**

It is demonstrated that *Fossarus monterosati* GRANATA GRILLO, 1877 cannot be identified and is to be considered a nomen nudum. The two species mentioned by WARÉN & BOUCHET should therefore be called *Tjaernoeia exquisitus* (JEFFREYS, 1883), erroneously identified with *Fossarus monterosati* GRANATA GRILLO, 1877 and, secondly, *Granigyra monterosatoi* (Van AARTSEN & BOGI, 1987) which maybe meant by *Fossarus excavatus* MONTEROSATO nom. nud.

Very recently a most interesting paper by WARÉN & BOUCHET (1988) appeared, dealing with some small European gastropods.

The authors showed that several known species should be considered to belong to the family Vanikoridae hitherto unknown from European water.

In their paper (1988:88) these authors also suggest that the name *Fossarus monterosati* GRANATA GRILLO, 1877 should be applied to the species known as *Adeorbis exquisitus* JEFFREYS, 1883 = *Adeorbis imperspicuus* CHASTER, 1895.

As we are strongly opposed against such an identification we present here our arguments on the basis of which we can only conclude that the name *Fossarus monterosati* GRANATA GRILLO cannot be used for any species.

\* Adm. Helfrichlaan 33, 6952 GB Dieren, The Netherlands

\*\* Via delle Viole 7 - 57100 Livorno Italy

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Our arguments are as follows.

1) *Fossarus monterosati* GRANATA GRILLO, 1877 was never described and should thus be considered a nomen nudum because proposed as a replacement name for *Fossarus excavatus* MTRS. not C.B. ADAMS, which itself is a nomen nudum.

2) Although the authors write (:88) «However, at the same time GRILLO presented a key for the determination of the Mediterranean species of *Fossarus*, which enables identification of *Fossarus excavatus* MONTEROSATO», we do not agree with this.

In fact the «key» given by GRANATA GRILLO (1877:14) is on a generic level only and separates the group of species containing 1) *Fossarus costatus*, BR., 2) *F. ambiguus*, L. and 3) *F. granulum*, BRUGN. under the generic name *Fossarus* PHIL., 1841 from the group containing 4) *Fossarus azonus*, BRUS., 5) *F. depressus*, SEG. and 6) *F. Monterosati*, GRANATA under the generic name *Megalomphalus* BRUSINA, 1871.

As differential diagnosis for this last group it is stated (1877:14): «pas de cingules, ombelic très grand; tours arrondies, apex régulier formé de tours spirolineati ou punctati».

3) Apart from the printing-error «forméde» for «formé de» it is clear that the term «spirolineati ou punctati» is used with respect to the apex and not in relation to the sculpture of the teleoconch.

4) As the differential diagnosis is to be used for all three species mentioned it is not sure which one of the three has the apical whorls «punctati» and which one «spirolineati». It is even uncertain whether GRANATA GRILLO used the terms to denote different sculpture types, realising that binocular microscopes were not available in his days.

5) The only two other literature citations known give the name of the species only and do add nothing to the recognition of the species *Fossarus monterosati* GRANATA GRILLO = *F. excavatus* MONTEROSATO as mentioned already by VAN AARTSEN & BOGI (1987).

So one can only conclude that the species *Fossarus monterosati* GRANATA GRILLO, 1877 cannot be recognized from any published material and should remain a nomen nudum.

The fact that MONTEROSATO consequently differentiates the two species *Adeorbis imperspicuus* MTRS nom. nudm = *A. exquisitus* JEFFREYS, 1883 and *Fossarus excavatus* MTRS nom. nud. coupled with the fact that *Adeorbis imperspicuus* is a very characteristic shell, not easily to be confused with any other, does not make it probable that these two species really belong to one and the same only as suggested by WARREN & BOUCHET. In this connection it seems relevant to stress the fact that MONTEROSATO (1875, 1878, 1890) not only separated the two species but placed them in different genera viz. *Fossarus excavatus* (1875:25), (1877:33) changed to *Megalomphalus excavatus* (1878:97) and *Megalomphalus monterosati* GRANATA (1890:161) and *Adeorbis imperspicuus* (1875:36), (1878:97) changed to *Tornus imperspicuus* (1890:161).

In our opinion the species *Adeorbis excavatus* MTRS. nom. nud. = *Fossarus monterosati* GRANATA GRILLO nom nud. is to be identified with *Daronia monterosatoi* VAN AARTSEN & BOGI, 1987 as corroborated by the speci-

men USNM 186464 (ex MONTEROSATO).

The fact alone that lateron WARÉN & BOUCHET have discovered another species under the name *Fossarus excavatus* in the Dautzenberg-collection is not evidence for a misidentification by VAN AARTSEN & BOGI. It is, in fact, of no consequence whatsoever, as the name *Fossarus monterosati* remains a nomen nudum.

Therefore it is held that two species present should be named *Tjaer-noeia exquisitus* (JEFFREYS, 1883) = *Adeorbis imperspicuus* CHASTER, 1895, erroneously identified with *Fossarus monterosati* GRANATA GRILLO, 1877 by WARÉN & BOUCHET (1988:88) and, secondly, *Granigyra monterosatoi* (VAN AARTSEN & BOGI, 1987) which most probably is *Fossarus excavatus* MTRS. nom. nud. = *Fossarus monterosati* GRANATA GRILLO nom. nud.

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